

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

NSC BRIEFING

29 October 1953

FRENCH ASSEMBLY INDOCHINA VOTE

1. Assembly on 28 October adopted by 315 to 251 government-supported motion calling for:
 - a. Development of native armies to relieve French forces.
 - b. Use of "every possible means" to reach a general ^{pacification} ~~peace~~ in Asia by negotiation.
 - c. Assurance of just distribution of effort and sacrifice among free nations.
 - d. Continued adherence of the Associated States to the French Union.
2. Opposition to the resolution ^{PRESUMABLY} ~~apparently~~ included:

- 1 -

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

- a. 100 Communists.
 - b. 105 Socialists
 - c. A few Popular Republicans
 - d. The rest mostly Radical Socialists
and Independents.
 - d. (It is unlikely that any ex-
Gaullists voted against the motion.)
3. Before a vote on this motion, the Assembly
had rejected several opposition proposals.
- a. By a 418 to 101 vote it rejected a Com-
munist motion for immediate negotiations
with Viet Minh.
 - b. A Socialist motion calling for an
end to the war through negotiations
was rejected by 330 to 250.
4. Laniel denied any intention of fighting
for total victory.
- a. He assured the Assembly that France
is willing to negotiate if the Viet
Minh seek talks.

- 2 -

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

5. As a result:

- a. The Reynaud faction in the cabinet has probably gained support for its demand for five-power talks. (In mid-October Laniel and Bidault successfully parried such a demand which probably had support of majority of ministers.)
- b. In any event, the Reynaud faction will insist on taking every opportunity to implement point two of the motion (negotiations).
- c. The Navarre Plan assumes even greater importance than heretofore.
 - (1) If Navarre succeeds, French hope Viet Minh will ask for negotiations.

- 3 -

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

- (2) If Navarre fails, France will probably seek UN intervention or attempt to turn the responsibility for the conduct of the war over to the US on the threat of a complete withdrawal, even though the French have admitted that it is militarily infeasible to attempt such a withdrawal.

- 4 -

~~SECRET~~